

THE ANTIQUARY.

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THE BRASSES AT ADDINGTON, CO. KENT.

IN a central part of Kent, not many miles from Wrotham, which was recently visited by some of the members of the Kent Archaeological Society in the course of their annual excursion, lies Addington church, a fifteenth century Perpendicular structure, snugly embosomed among the trees in Addington Park, the property of the Hon. J. W. Stratford.

I had occasion, a few months since to visit the neighbourhood in search of early relics, even those dating from prehistoric times, of which there are some important traces in the parish. I therefore seized the opportunity of obtaining rubbings of whatever brasses remained in the church; these being, according to Haines's excellent *Manual of Monumental Brasses*, two in number. I was agreeably surprised, however, to find four other ancient brass effigies, making six in all. The following is a complete list, the second and third being those mentioned by Haines as being still in existence. The length of each effigy is given between the brackets.

- I. Richard Charlis, 1378 (17 in. from top of basinet to waist).
- II. William Snayth and wife, 1409 (36 in.).
- III. A man in armour, *cir.* 1410-20 (24½ in.).
- IV. A man in armour, *cir.* 1444 (18 in.).
- V. Robert Watton and wife, 1470 (27 in.).
- VI. Thomas Chaworth, rector, *cir.* 1500 (11 in.).

Some of the readers of the ANTIQUARY may be interested in pursuing a more particular account of the above brasses, and to gratify such will be my endeavour in the following remarks. Taking these brasses in order of date, that commemorating the death of Richard Charlis claims attention first. This monument is noticed by Weever, and by Thorp, in his *Registrum Roffense*, but not, as previously noted, by Haines. Richard Charlis (sometimes spelt Charles) appears to have held the manor of Addington, which he obtained from Hugh de Segrave, in the reign of Edward III. (*Hasted's Kent*.)

The effigy of Richard Charlis occupies the middle of a grave slab; the inscription being a marginal one, and placed on a narrow rim of brass inserted round the edge of the slab. At the four corners are the evangelistic symbols. The whole is now perfect, with the exception of the lower part of the effigy below the waist; a portion of the inscription, and one of the symbols, that of St. Mark, is also missing. Richard Charlis is, according to the custom of the period, clad in armour, and represents a fair specimen of the style prevalent in the latter half of the fourteenth century, but without heraldic embellishments. Here we see the pointed basinet, with the camail attached to it by a cord passing through staples on each side of the visage, and fastened there by knots. The hands, raised in the usual attitude of prayer, are enclosed in gauntlets, while the epaulières and elbow plates are in the characteristic style of the time. The in-

scription, so far as is at present decypherable, is as follows in black letter—

+ Ric iacet Magist' Ricardus charlis qui obiit in festo
 scti Millmo cccmo lxxmo hijiui' die ppiciet
 ds amen.

It would seem from the date, 1378, either that this brass belonged to an older church, or that it was not laid down until subsequent to 1400-3, when the present church is said to have been built.* It was formerly on the north side of the chancel (Thorp's *Reg. Roff.*, p. 913); it is now in the south chantry chapel, where all the other brasses, excepting that of Thomas Chaworth, have been placed. I am inclined to think, however, that Thorp was misinformed as to its position, for in *Harl. MS.*, 3917, usually ascribed to John Philipott, it is described as being "in a syde chapell," and the brass appears now to occupy the original matrices.

The next brass, in point of date, is that to the memory of William Snayth and wife, Alice, the former dying in 1409. This William Snayth was also the possessor of the manor, which he obtained through marriage with a member of the Charlis family.

Beneath a fine double canopy are the effigies of himself and wife, the former being habited in a suit of armour, with a few later characteristics than that of Richard Charlis. For instance, we have here an example of the "addition to the camail and skirt of the hawberk, of a fringe of small bunches of rings, which were probably of brass." The effigy of Sir Richard Drury, from Rougham, co. Suffolk, and depicted on p. 184 of the first part of Haines, gives a very good general idea of the appearance of William Snayth, as shown on his brass. His wife, Alice, is attired in mantle and tightly fitting kirtle, the usual dress of the higher classes at this period, *i.e.* the commencement of the fifteenth century. The style of dressing the hair in "a netted caul, worn over the head, confining the front hair over the forehead, and in two small bunches above the ears," is peculiar, although common on brasses where the kirtle and mantle are shown. On a brass plate, beneath the figures, the following inscription in black letter is engraved.

Ric iacet Willms Snayth Armig' quondam dñs de Addngton
 ac vicecomes hanc' & Alicia br' eius qui quidem Willms obiit
 xijº (die) marcii Anno dñi mº cccº ixº quor' aiabz ppiciet deus
 Ame.

It may be added that, according to Harris, in his *History of Kent*, this William Snayth held the office of sheriff in 9 Henry IV. (1407), only two years before his death.

The brass of William Snayth is now mural on the east wall of the south chantry. Thorp says it was in the chancel, and in the MS. before alluded to, it is said to be "in ye quire vnder a fayr stone."

On the floor of the south chapel, or chantry, now lie two figures of knights in armour, and it becomes necessary, in the absence of the inscriptions belonging to them, to ascertain their date from internal evidence.

Taking therefore the earlier example, we find him attired

* The following quaint inscription has been preserved, said to have been affixed to the wall of the tower—

"In fourteen hundred and none,
 Here was neither stick nor stone;
 In fourteen hundred and three,
 The goodly building which you see."

in a suit of plate armour, with a sharply pointed basinet, roundels at the arm-pits and elbow joints, moustaches—which went out of fashion about 1420 or so—and, to the skirt of the hawberk, a fringe, formed of rings, similar to that on the brass of William Snayth. The roundels are, perhaps, the most distinctive mark, and, from this and other features, the execution of the brass may be with safety fixed between the years 1410 and 1420. Now, among the Addington monuments given by Weever, is one thus inscribed—

Hic iacet Johannes Northwood, Arm. filius et heres . . . Northwood obiit 30 April, 1416.

Philipott (*Hart. MS.* 3917) corroborates the date 1416, and supplies the name of the father, "Edward de Northwood."

It is probable, therefore, that the knight, whose effigy still remains engraved as we have seen, in a style prevalent between 1410-20, is no other than John Northwood, who, according to Lambard, "was buried in the body of the church at Addington, in the year 1416." The brass was no doubt removed to its present position when the church underwent repairs many years since. It appears to have been in the nave when Thorp wrote at the end of the last century.

The other figure of a man in armour is of later execution, and resembles, in general features, that of Sir John Throckmorton, 1445, at Fladbury, co. Worcester, who is engraved in Haines, p. 191. It appears from Weever, that one of the Watton family died in 1444, but in *Hart. MS.*, 3917, the inscription is given more complete thus—

Or a pia Roberti Watton Armiger qui fuit dñs istius ville & patronus huius ecclesie qui obiit die Ascensionis dñe 1444 cuius, &c.

I can see, therefore, no just reason for doubting that here we have the effigy of the Robert Watton mentioned above. (For a pedigree of the Watton family, see *Archæologia Cantiana*, vol. iv., p. 258).

Immediately south of the brass to Richard Charlis, and nearer the wall, are two full length effigies of man and wife, representing Robert Watton, the grandson of the Robert Watton who died in 1444, and his wife Alice. This brass is one of those said by Haines to be lost. The man, clad in a suit of armour, exhibits many of the changes which took place in the latter half of the fifteenth century. The lady is attired in a gown reaching to the feet, and open above the waist. Round the shoulders is a border of fur, and the cuffs are formed of the same material. The horned head-dress, prevalent about this time, is here worn, but lacking that grotesqueness which is peculiar to some heads of ladies of this period. The inscription, in three lines, on a brass plate beneath the effigies, is as follows—

Hic in una dia iacet Corpa Robti Watton Armiger filii et heres Robti Watton Armiger et Alicie uxoris pñicti Robti filie Johis Cleric bñi Barony Scij dñi Reg quic dem Robt isti ville dñs & hui, eccle verus patron existat q' obiit xix die Noubr' Aº dñi mº cccc lxxº qºc aiabs pñictet de ame.

Thorp adds to his brief notice of this brass the following remark. "Beneath the plate are the effigies of two children, with these words, Johannes, Katerina, who both died in

their father's lifetime." There were also the arms of Watton and Clerk, but these, as well as the children's effigies, are now missing.

The half effigy of Thomas Chaworth is, unfortunately, without date, but, from the mention of "Elizabeth, wife of Robert Watton," in the inscription, it might be inferred that this could be easily ascertained. But it so happens that a discrepancy occurs. Thus, genealogists tell us that neither of the two Robert Wattons, who died respectively in 1444 and 1470, had a wife of the name of Elizabeth; the former marrying Alice, daughter and heir of William Snayth, and the latter, Alice, daughter of John Clerk, one of the barons of the exchequer. But, on the other hand, it appears that Edmund Watton, the son of the Robert Watton who died in 1470, took to wife Elizabeth, daughter and co-heir of Robert Arnold, of Gillingham, so that it is at once suggested that the word "Robert," on the brass, is an engraver's error for "Edmund." If so, the approximate date of the brass of Thomas Chaworth would be about 1500. He is represented in eucharistic vestments, holding the chalice and wafer. The inscription runs thus—

*Hic iacet dñs Thomas Chaworth quonda Rector Eccle de Addington & de Longmelford * unus clericor dñi Regis in Cancellaria sua: ac cognatus Elizabeth uxoris Robti Watton Armiger quor aiabs pñictet de Ame.*

As this brass is now on the floor within the communion rails, and covered by the carpet, it would not be noticed by a casual visitor; and I would here express my thanks to the worthy old parish clerk, Mr. William Wells, for having kindly pointed out its existence to me, otherwise I should have fallen into the same error as Thorpe, and omitted it altogether.

In conclusion, the following succinct recapitulation, adopting the phraseology used in Haines's list, may be found useful—

Addington, co. Kent.—I. Richard Charlis, 1378, marg. insc., lower part of effigy lost. S. C.—II. William Snayth, lord of the manor, and sheriff of Kent, 1409, and wife Alice, with canopy, now mural. S. C.—III. A man in armour, *cir.* 1410-20, insc. lost. Probably John Northwood, 1416. S. C.—IV. A man in armour, insc. lost. Probably Robert Watton, 1444. S. C.—V. Robert Watton and wife Alice, 1470, full length effigies, with insc. S. C.—VI. Thomas Chaworth, rector of Addington and Longmelford, *cir.* 1500, half effigy, with chalice and wafer. C.

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August 18, 1871.

INDIA.—The magistrate of Balasore, having been scandalised at the obscenities represented in the temple of Orissa, suggested that a party of experts should go about and examine the temples, and where the obscenities can be rendered innocuous, they should employ the chisel and the fig-leaf in making the figures decent; otherwise the figures should be removed. The British Indian Association has appealed against what will most probably end little short of Vandalism, but, it is feared, with little prospect of success.

* Probably Longmelford, in Suffolk.

MEETING OF THE ROYAL ARCHÆOLOGICAL
INSTITUTION AT CARDIFF.*(Concluded from last number.)*

ON Wednesday the 25th ult. the proceedings opened with a meeting of the Historical Section at the Assembly-room at the Royal Hotel. Mr. Freeman presided. The room was well filled with ladies and gentlemen, among whom were Lord and Lady Dunraven, Lord Talbot de Malahide, Mr. G. T. Clark, Mr. R. O. Jones, &c.

Mr. W. Floyd read a valuable paper on the "Conquest of Wales," in which he assigned the Conquest to a national war, and not, as is generally believed, to private adventure. Many of the points elucidated were of a somewhat surprising character, as upsetting the preconceived views held on this subject. Mr. Clark thought the paper could not be discussed until they had a verification of them by a reference to dates and other details in the old Chroniclers, and which they could not be expected to have at their fingers' ends.

A vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Floyd for his valuable paper.

THE HISTORY OF CARDIFF CASTLE.

Mr. Loftie read a paper on the History of Cardiff Castle, or rather an epitome of the names, with a few of the principal events connected with the names of the owners of Cardiff Castle from the time of Robert Fitzhamon. He admitted that he had not had the opportunity of many others of the archaeological members, and had very little resources to which he could refer, except the already published accounts, and these details differed very little from the accounts already given. He traced the history of the Lords of Cardiff from Fitzhamon to the present Marquis of Bute.

Mr. Clark, in alluding to the paper read, considered that the whole history of the country from the time of Fitzhamon to the present time, and the parcelling out of the country into twelve knight's fees, require to be again written.

THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

Mr. G. A. Freeman, the president of the section, then delivered his address.

He commenced by pointing out the importance of local history, as supplying the materials from which the history of empires was written, and showing that these annual visits to different parts of the kingdom were for the purpose of studying the local histories of those neighbourhoods. After an eloquent retrospective sketch of the places they had visited during the twenty-seven years which had elapsed since their establishment, and the glorious associations of early days which those places called up in their minds, he adverted to their omission, through some strange freak of destiny, to visit the great city of the west—Exeter, a city which beat back Gweger, and all but beat back William. Whilst they were thus shut out from that part of the island which was usually known as West Wales, he congratulated the Society on their choice of a place of meeting. This was the first time the assembly had assembled beyond the bounds of England. That the Institute has visited the extreme north of England, said he, I fully admit; that it has met beyond its northern border, I deny. I can listen to no geography which tells me that the Earldom of Lothian and the borough of Eadwine are other than English ground. Edinburgh, then, I claim as English. Dublin, like Exeter, is a place which we have heard of, but never seen. But now we have at last crossed the border. Whether we place that border at the Wye, the Usk, or the Rhymney, there is no doubt that here, on the banks of the Taff, we are met together on genuine British ground. I say genuine British; I do not say purely British; for one of the advantages of this district is that it is pre-eminently not purely British, nor

purely anything; that there is no part of the island where all the successive races which have occupied it, or overrun it, have left more speaking signs of their presence. We are here emphatically in a border district, and a border district is always specially rich in matters of history. The land in which we are now met—the land of Gwent and Morganwg—presents phenomena different from other districts. Cast your eye at random over the map of this county of Glamorgan, and it may haply light on the name of a place called Welsh Saint Donats. Such a name is enough to set one thinking. In what state of things is it needful to mark out a place as Welsh, to distinguish Welsh Saint Donats from another Saint Donats which is not Welsh? Such a name as Welsh Saint Donats implies that you are in a district partly, perhaps chiefly, but not wholly Welsh. Look on more carefully through the list of names, and some, like Cowbridge and Newton, are purely English; others are English translations of Welsh names—as English Michaelston has supplanted Welsh Llanfihangel. But here and there we stumble on a name like Beaupré, which is neither Welsh nor English, but good French. And here and there we have a name like Flemingston, which not only points by inference to the presence of other races, but tells us on the face of it what those races were. The general course of history will tell us that the Welsh names are older than the English, but, without taking in other special means of information, we could hardly get beyond that. Let us try and see, in a vague and general way, what more special research will tell us, what points for further inquiry it will suggest to us, as to the history of a district whose phenomena show themselves, at the first blush, as so remarkable. We may begin with the old question of all, who were the first inhabitants of the country? Two views, each of which has been maintained with no small ingenuity, suggest the presence of races older than the oldest now existing in the country. Were the Britons the earliest wave of Aryan migration in these lands, or were they preceded by an earlier Aryan and Celtic race, that, namely, which consists of the Scots, both of Britain and Ireland, and which, on the lips of the Cymry, as on their own, still bears, in various forms, the name of Gael or Gwyddyl? That is to say, is the wide distinction between the two branches of the Celtic race in these islands, between the Scots, or Gael, and the Welsh or Britons, a distinction which arose after they had settled in these islands; or do they represent two successive waves of Aryan migration, in which case there can be no doubt as to putting the Gael as the earlier settler of the two. Such names as Nant-y-Gwyddyl in the heart of the Black Mountains is evidence that these might be simply spots occupied by rovers from Ireland, who undoubtedly harried these coasts in later times, or spots where the older Gaelic population made their last desperate stand against the British invader. And again, can either branch of the Celtic race, Gael or Briton, claim to be the first inhabitants of the land? The Celt, in some shape, was undoubtedly the first Aryan inhabitant, but was our island once inhabited by Turanian races, kinsfolk of the Fins and Laps of the North and of the Basques of the Pyrenees? We are here in a land not poor in primeval antiquities; this country contains one of the largest cromlechs in Briton, and it is as well to remember that one theory at least attributes these gigantic graves—I suppose there is no one here so behind the world as to dream about Druid altars—not to Celts, British or Gaelic, not to Aryans of any race, but to the Turanian inhabitants of the old times before them. It has been held by two writers, both of great name, but with a long interval of ages between them—by Tacitus and Professor Huxley, that the Silurians of South Wales and the neighbouring districts were really a people closely akin to the Iberians of Spain, and therefore not Celtic—not Aryan at all. Mr. Freeman then called attention to the dire features of the antiquities of Wales, and remarked that although the ecclesiastical buildings of South Wales have much of deep

interest and much of local character, there is absolutely nothing which reminds us of Glendalough, of Clonmacnoise, and of Monasterboice; their connection with the days of early British Christianity even at places like St. David's and Landaff, like Lantwit and Llancafán, a connection wholly of history and association, in no case extending to the actual stones. Two famous seats of Roman occupation stand forth among the chief antiquarian attractions, if not of Morganwg, at least of Gwent. On the banks of the Usk the Romans fixed an Isca, a city of the Legions, which once was a rival of the other City of the Legions by the Dee, and of the other Isca by the Damnonian Exe. Not far off, too, are the remains of the Silurian Venta which, with the Belgian Venta, still remain as habitations of man, but the Icenian Venta lives only in rhyme. The Briton then remains in speech and in his own presence; the Roman and his speech have vanished utterly, but his works remain. The President went on to follow the results of the English conquest by the Norman. In the greater part of the land the fate of the Celtic inhabitants was utter extirpation; in a considerable, but far smaller district, it was assimilation. Men of British blood submitted to the English conquerors, and gradually adopted the language and feelings of Englishmen. How slow the process sometimes was, we see in the long endurance of the British tongue in Cornwall. English does advance in Wales, but except in great centres of population like that where we are now met, it advances very slowly. English has taken far longer to advance from the Wye to the Usk than it took to advance from the German Ocean to the Wye. Doubting that William conquered Wales, or that the Welsh chronicles were authentic which placed the beginning of the Castle of Cardiff in the days of the Conqueror, he remarked that the real conquest came in the next reign, and it is to its peculiar nature that the characteristic phenomena of the district are owing. Gwent and Morganwg were not conquered by heathen invaders, spreading mere slaughter and havoc before them; neither were they conquered as a political conquest by a Duke of Normandy, or a King of England at the head of a national Norman or English army. The scramble for lands and dwellings which some people seem to fancy took place under the strict civil police, the stern military discipline of William the Great, really did take place when a crowd of Norman knights and their followers swept down on the devoted districts, each man seeking to carve out a lordship for himself. The land was won by the sword—but by the sword of private adventurers, not by the armies of a regular government. The land was conquered, the land was divided, to a large extent it was settled; but its former inhabitants were neither destroyed, expelled, nor assimilated. To this peculiar character of the invasion we owe the peculiar character of the antiquities of the district. Castles arose, far thicker on the ground than in England itself, for every leader needed a stronghold for the safety of himself and his followers. The Norman was essentially devout. Wherever he dwelled, whatever he conquered, he founded monasteries and parish churches; but in such a land as this a monastery could not fail to be a fortress, a church was driven to be on occasion a house of warfare. And, besides castles and churches, the new settler soon began to seek at once strength and enrichment by the foundation of chartered towns, whose privileged burgesses would consist of a motley assemblage of French, English, Flemings; anything, in short, but Britons. Every castle, every town, was thus a foreign settlement—a settlement of men with arms in their hands, who had to keep what they had won against the enmity of those who had lost it. Wherever it was convenient and possible, the natives would be utterly driven out, and the result would be such a purely English-speaking district as that of Lantwit and St. Donats. Recommending the study of genealogy, and scientific inquiry into the language of the alleged Flemish districts of Glamorganshire, as compared with the known Flemish

districts of Pembrokeshire, the spoken language of Flanders, and the dialect of Somerset, Mr. Freeman concluded a very eloquent address by remarking that: the ecclesiastical history of Wales was certainly no pleasant page in the history of England. One reads with a feeling of shame of the revenues of ancient Welsh churches swept away, in the twelfth century, and in the sixteenth, to enrich English foundations at Gloucester, Tewkesbury, and Bristol. Yet, in the days of war and tumults, it was something that men of contending races could at least worship together, that they could agree to look with reverence on spots like the holy places of Saint Teilo and Saint Iltyd. And it is something, on the other side, that, in one point at least, the nineteenth century may hold up its head alongside of any of its fore-runners. No church of its rank in South Britain had ever fallen so low as the Cathedral church of the diocese in which we are met. If there were nothing else to draw us hither, it would be goal enough for our pilgrimage to see the ancient minster of Llandaff, not so many years back, a ruin, and worse than a ruin, stand forth, as it now does, among the model churches of our land.

Lord Talbot De Malahide thanked the President for his luminous, eloquent, powerful, and comprehensive address, and spoke of the great interest there would be in connecting the history of South Wales with that of Ireland.

VISIT TO CALDICOT, CAERWENT, AND CHEPSTOW.

On Friday morning the company started for Caldicot, Caerwent, and Chepstow. The first object inspected was the ruins of Caldicot Castle. This dismantled fortress stands in the midst of Caldicot Level, called by Camden "a shell belonging to the Constables of England." Its history is enveloped in even greater obscurity than that which enshrouds the early history of Caerphilly. The remains of former extent and strength show that it must have been of great importance as a stronghold. It formerly belonged to the powerful family of Bohun. Dugdale states that Humphrey, Earl of Hereford, the fifth of that line, did homage in 1221 for the livery of this castle. It subsequently came into the possession of the Crown, and was annexed to the Duchy of Lancaster. The principle entrance to the south-west consists of a grand arched gateway. In the interior are the remains of several apartments and a baronial hall of no mean pretensions. The castle is connected with the village of Caldicot by a high ridge of land, said to have been formerly fortified.

A few miles to the north of Caldicot lies the now small village of Caerwent, or Caergrwent, once an important Roman station—the *venta* Silurum of Antoninus's *Itinerary*. Many vestiges of the Romans have been discovered here, consisting of coins, fragments of columns, statues, sepulchral stones, and tesselated pavements. The village is still partially environed with the original Roman walls, but with the exception of these little remains of its ancient magnificence. The following description of it is given by Leland:—"It was sum time a fair and large cyte. The place where the iiij gates was yet appere, and the most part of the wal yet standeth, but all to minischyd and torne. Within and aboute the wawlle be a xvi or xvii smaull houses for hosbandmen of a new making, and a paroch church of St. Stephyn." (*Itinerary*, vol. v. f. 5.)

Chepstow was the next place visited; it lies about eight or nine miles to the east of Caerwent, on the banks of the river Wye. The name of the town is suggestive of the Saxon origin. In *Domesday Book* it is called "Castellum de Estrigoel," whence the name Strigul sometimes applied to the town. The present castle is said to have been erected in part by William Fitz Osborn, Earl of Hereford, who distinguished himself at the battle of Hastings. It subsequently formed part of the possessions of the De Clares, and is now the property of the Duke of Beaufort. It was the scene of many conflicts during the struggle between Charles

I. and the parliamentary forces; and after the Restoration it was the prison of Henry Marten the Regicide, and the round tower of the south-east angle of the first court of the castle is still shown to visitors as being the place in which he was confined. The castle towards the land side was defended by a wide moat, and the walls flanked with lofty bastion towers. It stands close to the river Wye, and that portion of it which overhangs the stream seems to form part of the cliff on which it is situated. The castle consists of three courts, the entrance to the first of which, on the eastern side, is very grand. A Priory for Monks of the Order of St. Benedict was founded at Chepstow at a very early date. It was made a cell to the Abbey of Corneille, in Normandy. The present parish church is said to have formed part of the chapel belonging to the Priory. In the neighbourhood of Chepstow are the remains of several religious houses, among which may be mentioned those of St. Kynemarc's Priory, and the chapel of St. Lawrence.

In the evening a public meeting was held in the Town-hall, Cardiff.

VISIT TO COWBRIDGE, ST. QUENTIN'S CASTLE.

On Saturday the Archaeologist paid a visit to some of the most interesting architectural remains in the county of Glamorganshire. Unfortunately the weather was exceedingly unfavourable, and thus the pleasure of the excursion was to some extent marred.

The first place at which the party stayed was Cowbridge, where the church, a curious example of the semi-fortified churches to be found in the vale of Glamorgan, was inspected. The remains of the town walls can still be traced, the south gate being almost perfect. Closely adjacent is St. Quentin's Castle, one of the "Twelve Castles of the Lordships of Glamorgan." But little remains of the building, with the exception of the principal gateway and some fragment of the outer curtain wall.

After examining these remains the party proceeded to the mansion of old Beaupré, situated about two miles and a half from Cowbridge. The most curious feature of these ruins is the porch, which consists of three stories of Doric, Ionic, and Corinthian architecture. It is said to have been constructed by a native artist named Twrch. St. Donat's Castle was also visited. This fortress, which formerly belonged to the Stradlings or Esterlings, is a magnificent pile of buildings most romantically situated on the coast of the Bristol Channel. The church, which lies in a little dell in close proximity to the Castle, contains many curious monuments, and in the churchyard there is a beautiful cross. The watch tower, on the eminence on the opposite side of the dell to that on which the castle stands, plays a conspicuous part in the legend of Colyn Dolphyn.

In the vicinity of Lantwit, which place was also reached, is the old house at Boverton, said to be identical with the Roman Station of Bovium.

On the way back from St. Donat's to Bridgend, a visit was paid to the ancient Priory of Ewenny, an object second in interest to no other in the county of Glamorgan.

VISIT TO CAERLEON AND RAGLAN CASTLE.

On Monday morning the archaeologists left Cardiff for Newport for a long day's excursion—the last of the meeting—to Caerleon and Raglan Castle. The weather was fortunately all that could be desired. Passing over Newport-bridge a passing glimpse was caught of the ruins of the castle (built by Robert Fitzhugh in the reign of William Rufus), but which are now disfigured for trade purposes. The castle stands on the edge of the water, and is labelled conspicuously as the stores of a Brewery Company. The South Wales Railway elbows it on one side, and an ugly timber-yard and stables on the other. The excursionists did not stop to examine the other antiquarian remains of Newport.

Indeed, a passing glance at the castle was hardly bestowed. Time was pressing and there were more interesting memorials awaiting them elsewhere.

Caerleon, the principal object in view, is a village or small town on the Usk, and was once the metropolis of Wales: the *Isca Legionis Secunda Augusta*. On their arrival Mr. John Edward Lea, a gentleman of great antiquarian tastes and acquirements, met the visitors, and conducted them to as many of the show places as there was time to inspect. A museum has been built in the village, where the relics of the past which have been exhumed from time to time in this locality are stored and taken care of. In the museum are two beautiful tassellated pavements. One of these, which is complete, was the pavement from a village at Caerwent, and is perfect; the other is broken, and is of a pattern unique in this country. Three stone coffins are in juxtaposition to the pavements. These were found in a British camp near. In one of them when found was a skeleton, with a lachrymatory between the knees. The lachrymatory was shown, with the other articles, in cases. These contained a large number of pieces of pottery (Greek, Roman and British), ivory earrings, fragments of Samian ware, sepulchral urns (some with bones in them), celts, and numerous stones with Roman inscriptions, chiefly in memory of veterans connected with the Second Augustan Legion.

The mound in the outskirts of the village was next visited. It is 300 yards round at the base, and 40 at the summit. It is covered with shrubs, and is ascended by a winding path. Having reached the top,

Mr. Lea pointed out to the visitors the different localities of archaeological interest surrounding it; and with regard to the mound itself, he said there could be no doubt that it was artificial. It had been said to be Roman by some, and British by others; probably both were right. The field below was the site of a Roman villa, a part of the walls of which ran into the mound. He pointed out the site of the moat, and said that the place where the drawbridge had rested had been discovered. He could trace the moat for some distance by the changed colour of the grass.

The next object inspected was a ridge of amphitheatre, called Prince Arthur's Round Table, in proceeding to which the party walked alongside a considerable remnant of the old Roman wall. The facing of the wall had been removed, no doubt for modern building purposes. In a field near the bridge were two slight elevations in the turf at about twenty yards distance apart, and Mr. Lea suggested that this might have been a Roman quoit ground. He appealed to Mr. Bloxham and Mr. Parker for their opinions, but both of those gentlemen answered that there was not material enough for them to form an opinion upon.

The "Round Table" is of oval form, 222 feet by 192 feet. All is covered with turf. It is said that stone seats were discovered here in the last century.

Mr. Lea observed that he had not much to say about the Roman amphitheatre, commonly called Arthur's Round Table. Why it was so called he could not say. Excavations had been made, he said, but nothing of consequence had been found. A lot of masonry had been found in a well near. He pointed to some lines in the old Roman wall opposite to the amphitheatre, and invited explanations.

Mr. Parker said he did not think it was an amphitheatre at all.

An adjournment then took place to Mr. Lea's house, near at hand, where he kindly offered the visitors some welcome refreshment, after which

Mr. Clarke, in the name of the archaeologists, thanked Mr. Lea not only for his hospitality but for the care which he had taken for the last thirty years in preserving the antiquities of the locality.

The party then returned to Newport and thence by special train to Raglan.

The rest of the afternoon was spent at Raglan Castle, to which the party journeyed by a devious railway route, *via*

Pontypool and Usk, "a famous castle fine," as Churchyard calls it:—

Made of freestone upright as straight as line,
Whose workmanship in beaute doth abound;
The curious knots wrought all with edged tools,
The stately tower that looks o'er pond and pools,
The fountain trim that runs both day and night,
Doth yield in shewe a rare and noble sight.

With regard to the antiquity of the present structure, no portion of it is assigned to an earlier period than that of Henry V., from which transition styles are traceable down to the first quarter of the 17th century. There was a castle founded here by one of the great family of Clare in the 13th century. It has now been in the possession of the Beaufort family some 300 years at least, and was a refuge for Charles in the civil war. The first Marquis of Worcester (created in 1642) raised an army of 1500 foot and 500 horse, which he placed under the command of his son, the celebrated author of the "Century of Inventions." He maintained the cause of the king bravely, and Charles visited him several times. The king sought a refuge at Raglan in July, 1645, after the battle of Naseby, and remained about two months. Raglan was, in fact, the last castle which defied the power of Cromwell. Fairfax's lieutenant, when he summoned the garrison to surrender in June 1646, thus wrote—"His Excellency, Sir Thomas Fairfax, having now finished his work over the kingdom except this castle, has been pleased to spare his forces for the work." The marquis (then eighty-five years old) in reply to the summons, answered that he preferred rather to die nobly than to live with infamy. After the lengthened siege the garrison capitulated on honourable terms, and the marquis went to London, where he was (contrary to the articles of surrender) seized and imprisoned. The castle afterwards became much dilapidated, and no attempt was made to preserve it until towards the end of the last century.

Here the excursionists lunched—for creature comforts are by no means despised by the most ardent antiquarian.

CONCLUDING PAPERS.

On Tuesday morning there was an early meeting of sections for reading of papers, after which the closing meeting of the congress was held.

The historical section met at the Town-hall under the presidency of Mr. Freeman.

Two papers were read—1st, Memoir on the Haweys and Stradling Families, by W. Lloyd, Esq.; 2nd, On the Historical Monuments of Glamorganshire, by G. T. Clark, Esq.

Mr. Clark began by noticing that the lords, marchers, and great barons who, in the 11th and 12th centuries won for themselves great estates, and provided strong castles in South Wales, possessed always more valuable estates and more secure residences, on the English side of the Severn, and in these they chiefly dwelt. The double interest was not confined to the great barons. Their leading retainers, knightly or squirearchical rank, lived much and were buried often in those counties. Others passed on to new conquests in Ireland, and there settled. Even of those who lived and died, and have monuments in South Wales the memoirs of but few are preserved, such was the unsettled state of the country continuously, until the reign of Edward, and at intervals as late as Henry V. The destruction attendant upon the change of religion in South Wales was also severe, and in addition to all this the contests between Charles and the Parliament were especially violent in Glamorgan, Monmouth, and Pembroke, and many monuments till then preserved were mutilated or destroyed by the soldiers on either side. For these various reasons the sepulchral monuments in South Wales, never very numerous or very splendid, were now rare and almost insignificant. The greater families of pure Welsh descent, representing the stocks of Jestyn ap Gwrgan, Enion ap Collwyn, and Gwaethvoed, whose ancestors before the Norman invasion might be presumed to

have set up those curious wrought or inscribed sepulchral stones of which there are several in Glamorgan, did not adopt the fashion of fixed patronymics until the 15th or 16th centuries, nor, with some exceptions, the custom of burial beneath an altar tomb and effigy. Perhaps the sole early exception in Glamorgan was that of the Lords of Avan, who used seals of arms with mounted effigies, and seem to have had tombs at Margam, to which Abbey they largely contributed. The Herberts, a great South Welsh family, did not bury in their lordship of Gower. The Matthews, of Radyr, buried in Llandaff. The extinct families of Williams, of Aberpergwm, Williams, of Duffryn, and Price, of Penllergaer, buried at Cadoxton-by-Neath. Of the Kemys, of Cefn Mabley, there were no tombs in their own county; and of the Lewis, of Van, there remained but one altar tomb and effigy—that of Sir E. Lewis, who died in 1630, which was at Edington, Wilts. Sir M. Cradock, a descendant of Enion-ap-Collwyn, who died 1531, had a grand altar tomb in St. Ann's Chapel, in Swansea Church. The tomb and the containing chapel were in a very disreputable condition. After noticing the absence of early monuments worth notice in Llancarvan and Llantwit, he said Llandaff Cathedral was poor in ancient monuments. The Grey Friars outside Cardiff contained several monuments of the early part of the 13th century. The ruins of Margam contained several later slabs. There were two unbroken stones of much elegance. One was inscribed with a pastoral staff of the 12th century, and the inscription—

Constans et vertus. Jacet hic
Rocvallis opertus
Abbas Roburtus. . . . nios Deus esto
misertus. Amen.

The monuments of the gentry of English, or rather Norman, descent were more numerous. In Ewenny Priory Church was the slab of its founder, who died 1144, and the words—"Ici gist Morice de Lundres le Fundur Deu 'li rende sun labur Am. . . ." After mentioning several other monuments of St. Hilary, Flemston, Neath, Llandough, Oxwich, Margam, and Llanbrethyd, &c., he said the Bassetts, though they built a noble mansion at Beaupré, had no taste for posthumous splendour. The Stradlings, though they lived at St. Donat's, buried in the Friars' church at Cardiff. In conclusion he said that the value of the monuments in South Wales was much enhanced by the fact that, unlike what had happened in England generally and in North Wales, all the local records had been destroyed.

Mr. Floyd's paper on the Haweys and Stradling families was, as the subject suggests, of more limited interest than that of Mr. Clark's. The writer noticed that in the reign of Elizabeth Sir E. Stradling addressed to Blanch Parry, one of the Queen's gentlewomen, a tract reciting the traditions which was commonly styled "The Winning of Glamorgan." This had been incorporated into many works, and was generally known. Referring to various traditions, he said all by whom tradition was related agreed that a Stradling was one of the company of Robert Fitzhammon, and all stated that he and his descendants held the manor of St. Donat's from the first coming of the Normans till the time in which they wrote. After some remarks on the Gwenham Brut, he traced the history of the two families named above, noticing that the name of Stradling was not found in any of the early charters relating to the Abbey of Margam. The earliest mention of the Haweys was 1165. From the reign of Edward III., and for a long time after, the Stradling family was in the possession of St. Donat's, and according to Sir E. Stradling and others the manor of St. Donat's was the hereditary property of the Stradlings from the conquest of Glamorgan. He showed that the Stradling family had property in Glamorgan from very early times, and he traced their descent downwards.

The concluding meeting was held shortly after noon. The Marquis of Bute, the president for the year, took the chair, and there was a goodly attendance. The proceedings con-

sisted for the most part of complimentary speeches, and the passing of votes of thanks to the different public officers and individuals who had assisted in the proceedings of the week.

Thanks were unanimously voted to the Mayor and Corporation for the use of the Town Hall. The Rev. E. Venables moved a vote of thanks to the writers of essays and addresses on the objects of the meeting, which Mr. G. T. Clark acknowledged. The contributors of articles to the museum were also thanked, and a cordial vote was passed to the able president of the meeting, the Mayor of Cardiff, the Lord Bishop of Llandaff, the Dean of Llandaff, and others, for their hospitality. The Local Committee were also thanked, and the meeting broke up.

KENT ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

ON Wednesday, the 2nd of August, the annual gathering of the members of this society took place at Knole Park, near Sevenoaks. The extreme loveliness of the weather, and the historic and archaeological interest attached to Knole House, combined to render this meeting one of the most pleasant and most successful assemblies ever held under the auspices of the Society. The meeting was presided over by the Earl Amherst.

The usual business proceedings having been concluded, the Rev. W. J. Loftie read a paper on the history, architecture, and furniture, &c., of Knole House, which he said was one of those museums of architecture with which the rural parts of England peculiarly abound. In London no considerations of archaeology had weighed to preserve buildings which had lost their use; but when they came to such a place as this, where land and even houses, as in the case of Knole, were measured by acres rather than by square feet, they found houses like that under whose ample roof they were assembled, in which, when one part was antiquated and unsuitable to modern requirements, another part was built, the original not being removed; and a succession of distinct and distinguishable buildings, each in itself an architectural monument were allowed to grow up side by side without pushing each other out of the way. Thus they would find at Knole specimens of every kind which had prevailed in England for the last four hundred years, and covering six acres of land. Knole was not mentioned as a residence in the Domesday survey. The first owners on record were the Bethunes or Beatus, one of whom Balchwin de Betun, called Earl of Aumerle, or Albermarle, was a large landowner here in the early part of the reign of King John. On the marriage of his daughter Alice with William Marshal, Earl of Pembroke, he gave her this manor and certain others. Knole estates then passed by various transitions through the hands of numerous possessors. It at length came into the hands of the Archbishop of Canterbury, Thomas Bourchier. With the archbishop the history of the present house began. He died in 1486. Knole subsequently passed into the possession of Henry VIII. and Elizabeth, who gave it to Sir Robert Dudley, afterwards Earl of Leicester. In 1603 it became the property of Thomas Sackville, Earl of Dorset, previously Lord Buckhurst. So far as could be discovered, the earliest part of the existing house was erected by Archbishop Bourchier, who must have pulled down or disguised the remains he found of the residence of the preceding owners. The hall in which they were assembled was entered by a colonnade, over which was a large shield of the arms of Lionel Cranfield, Earl of Middlesex. The colonnade was placed there as a kind of porch in the reign of William III., whose bust was on the end, reminding them of the colonnade in the inner court of Hampton Court. The hall was, as usual in buildings of the period, divided by a screen at one end, a minstrel's gallery being over the screen, and a passage leading to a small inner court had the kitchen and kitchen offices on the left hand and the door-

way to the hall on the right. Among the various crests on the screen were leopards rampant, and rams' heads, which seem to have been used by the Sackvilles as crests. The shields on the windows were those of Robert Devereux, Earl of Essex, Queen Elizabeth of Vere, Earl of Oxford, of three Sackvilles, and the arms of Bourchier. Knole House was many times visited by Henry VIII. and Elizabeth, besides other monarchs. If they went outside, and stood with their faces towards the house, they would see the Gothic buildings of the Archbishop on the right. The square towers were very fine. At right angles stood the stables; the upper story of this part was of the Tudor period. It still bore the name of the King's Stable. The portion of the house right in front was composite in character. The lower part was early; the upper bore more distinct traces of Elizabethan and later work. Further towards the south, the Stuart period comes in distinctly, and then they had a window which was probably inserted after 1700. The kitchen of Archbishop Bourchier's time was in fine preservation, but the present kitchen was considerably smaller. At the extreme west end was the chapel, and a chaplain's room. The chapel extended north and south instead of, as usual in ecclesiastical edifices, east and west. There was a vaulted crypt, which, although latterly used for the warming apparatus of the neighbouring conservatory, and full of rubbish, would well repay a visit. The north east side of the chapel contained windows which looked into the organ-room, where one of the oldest organs in England was to be seen. The principal objects of interest were as follows:—The staircase, which is Elizabethan or Stuart, and the carving of the bannisters deserves attention. The Brown gallery, eighty-eight feet long; in the windows are to be seen the Prince of Wales' feathers, and the Tudor rose. It contains some very old furniture. Lady Betty Germaine's Room is remarkable for its panelling, the doorway, an antique warming-pan, and some Mortlake tapestry, representing Vandyke, the painter, and Crane, the master of the works. The Spangled Bed-room—a stool, probably of the sixteenth century; bed furniture, said to have been presented to the Earl of Middlesex by James I.; ebony cabinet, seventeenth century; Venetian mirror. The Crimson Drawing-room has a beautifully carved chimney-piece, silver fire-dogs and tongs. The King's or Silver Room—a bed prepared for James I., said to have cost 8000*l.*, with furniture of gold and silver tissue; two silver tables, masterpieces of their kind; ebony and ivory cabinet. Other rooms were also worth visiting—viz., the ball-room, the cartoon gallery, the dining-room, the billiard-room, the Venetian bed-room, &c. There were no fewer than eighty staircases in the whole of the buildings, which would give them an idea of the intricate labyrinth of rooms and passages. The best view of the house is obtained from the rose garden, on the west side.

Mr. Loftie's paper was much applauded.

The pictures with which the walls of Knole House are literally covered were elaborately and ably illustrated and explained by Mr. G. Scharf.

The company, after going over Knole House, proceeded to the Crown Hotel, Sevenoaks, where they dined together in a pavilion erected for the purpose.

On Thursday the members assembled at Sevenoaks started on an excursion to several localities of interest in the neighbourhood.

The first place visited was the Oldbury Camp, which covers the vast area of 137 acres. It is supposed to be an encampment of the ancient Britons, and British gold coins and many flint implements (described by Sir John Lubbock) have been found on the spot.

The party proceeded from here to Ightham to look at the church, which contains some fine old tombs and monumental brasses.

The next halt was at Wrotham, and the church well repaid the excursionists for the time taken in reaching it. It has been lately restored, but as near as possible in the style

in which it was originally built. During the progress of these alterations an ancient tomb was discovered in the chancel, supposed to be that of John de Wrotham. The coffin was composed of several stones, and the skeleton was entire. The church is in the decorated style of architecture, and owing to the unusual number of chapels it at one time contained, there are no fewer than three piscinas in the side aisles, besides one in the chapel. It also can boast of a nuns' gallery, looking both into the nave and chancel. The font is a genuine early English one, and the doors are of the same style. Another peculiarity is that it has an exterior passage under the tower from side to side. At Wrotham the Archbishop of Canterbury once had a palace, but very few vestiges of it now remain. The Rev. C. Lane, the rector, kindly provided luncheon for the archaeologists, numbering upwards of 200.

An ancient Manor House, called "Old Sore," the Cromwellian Church of Plaxtole, and the Mote at Ightham, the residence of Major Luard-Selby, were likewise visited.

The meeting this year has been not only a very satisfactory but a most pleasant one. The weather was delightful, and the country through which the excursionists drove is not to be surpassed for picturesqueness or richness in all England.

ESSEX ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

THE annual meeting of this society took place on the 3rd instant, at the Shire Hall, Chelmsford, the Ven. Archdeacon of Essex presiding, through the illness of Sir Thomas Western, President of the Society.

The business of the meeting was commenced by Mr. King, the hon. sec., reading the annual report of the council. The fact that the first general meeting of the society was held at the Shire Hall more than eighteen years ago was mentioned, and the progress of the institution since that time was traced.

The Rev. H. A. Lipscomb, at the request of the President, made an interesting statement relative to an old book—an *Antiphonale*—found in the roof of Springfield Church during the restoration, about three years ago. The book was discovered above the south wall. It was within oak boards, but they were exceedingly rotten. It had since been bound in leather by the librarian at Cambridge University, who pronounced it to be remarkably perfect. The book appeared to be of date about 1300, and it was probably hidden in the roof in the time of Edward VI., in consequence of a statute providing that the "old church books should be abolished and extinguished."

Mr. J. Edward K. Cutts next read an able paper on "some Roman and British antiquities found at Billericay, and some Roman antiquities at Dunmow," some fragments of which were placed on the table.

Mr. Nichols said he wished to mention a matter which he thought would be of deep interest to all lovers of antiquity in the county. Turning over Morant's History, he frequently found reference, under the head of many parishes, to records existing in the *Cartulary* of the Abbey Church of St. John's, Colchester. It occurred to him (Mr. Nichols) to inquire whether this *Cartulary* still existed, and where it was preserved. He could not find anybody interested in the matter who had seen it during the last century. Morant certainly had it in his possession, but he expressly mentioned that it was lent to him by the kindness of Lord Hardwicke. Following out the track, he (the speaker) was most happy to say that he had found the *Cartulary* safely deposited in the hands of Lady Cowper at Wrest Park. He had seen it, and it answered every expectation he had formed. It was, in fact, in two volumes, one of which was of special interest. It was a very large, handsome, folio volume, in vellum, containing copies of about a thousand charters, all of them of a very early date. He should say the book was compiled

about 1250 or 1260. It contained about 235 pages, closely written, and was constructed throughout on a methodical plan. About 100 parishes were connected with St. John's Abbey, and this *Cartulary* was perhaps the most interesting record in existence, relating to the county of Essex, excepting only the Domesday Book itself. Lady Cowper, although very properly jealous and careful of the treasure, would have no objection to having a transcript made of it, provided it were under proper care, and he (Mr. Nichols) did hope this would be done.

BLOOMFIELD CHURCH.

After luncheon at the Saracen's Head, the party started *en route* for Bloomfield church, Leighs Priory, and the site of Pleshey Castle. Bloomfield church was described by Mr. Chancellor, under whose direction it has recently been restored. Mr. Chancellor said the nave was undoubtedly the oldest portion of the work. He confessed, after a minute examination of the south wall, with the western returns, that he entertained a strong belief that the work was Roman; and, pointing out what appeared to be the lines of an old arch, he suggested the possibility that it was some Roman building altered by the Normans. In the south-east corner of the nave he directed attention to two Roman bricks, which were the largest he had ever seen. The chancel he attributed to the latter part of the 14th century, while the tower—one of three round towers in Essex—he described as a fine specimen of Norman pebble work. One of several articles shown to the visitors by the Rev. J. B. Whiting, vicar of the parish, was a large Bible, printed in 1629, and having a very elaborate binding, which bore, on the inner cover, the following written inscription:—"This Bible was King Charles First's; afterwards it was my grandfather's, Patrick Young, Esq., who was Library-keeper to His Majesty, now given to the church at Bloomfield by me, Sarah Atwood, Augt. ye 4th, 1723."

LEIGHS PRIORY.

The company then sped on their way to the parish of Little Leighs, for the purpose of viewing the splendid ruins of the Priory. The roadside hostelry, "St. Ann's Castle," a regular halting place for travellers between Chelmsford and Braintree, was unfortunately left out of the *route*. We say unfortunately, because it is said to be one of the oldest licensed public-houses—if not the very oldest—in England. The building has had a strange fate, and in very peculiar manner has changed from grave to gay. In its early days it was a hermitage; subsequently, pilgrims from Norfolk and Suffolk to the shrine of St. Thomas à Beckett at Canterbury used to stay here for rest and refreshment; at the time of the Reformation it was seized and granted out to a secular holder, and,

"Last scene of all
That ends this strange eventful history,"

it ultimately became, as it remains, an inn." The remains of the old Priory lie to the left of the road, almost on the boundary of the parish. It was founded by Ralph Gernon, *temp.* Henry III., for Augustine Friars or Black Canons. Originally, it was a large and magnificent pile, surrounded by a park, which, says a county historian, was well stored with fish ponds, to supply the table on the oft-recurring fast day. The site of the venerable pile is a very pleasant one. It may, indeed, be said of it, as Byron wrote of "Norman Abbey,"

"It lies, perhaps, a little low;
The monks preferred a hill behind
To shelter their devotion from the wind;"

but it commands, nevertheless, an extensive and charming prospect, for which the holy men of those days had always an eye. The possessions of the house were great, and it was maintained in a style, the monks even keeping their

pack of hounds. At the dissolution of monasteries, the building and a large portion of the property connected with it fell into the hands of Sir Richard Rich, who turned it into a residence, rendering it so beautiful in its appointments and surroundings that a writer of the time speaks of it as "a secular elysium, a worldly paradise, a heaven upon earth." By Sir Richard's descendants the splendour of the place was kept up till the early part of the 16th century, when the line became extinct. The estates which they had accumulated were partitioned off, and the Priory, after passing through other hands, was purchased, according to the historian just quoted, by the governors of Guy's Hospital about a century ago. What in the olden days was a well wooded park—shady with oak and chesnut—is now turned into pasture and arable land. Of the Priory building sufficient remains to suggest what a glorious pile it must once have been, when

"The long gothic aisle, and stone-ribb'd roof,
O'er canopied shrine and gorgeous tomb,
Carved screen and altar, glimmering far aloof,
And blending with the shade,"

were as yet unmolested by the destroying hand of time. The parts still remaining are two sides of the outer quadrangle, now occupied as a residence by the tenant of the farm, and the gateway of the inner court. "The latter," observes the historian, very truly, "is a good sample of what the place has been." It is built of red and black brick, with a finely embattled octagon tower at each corner. The lofty archway at the entrance, and the windows of the apartments above, which still contain some fragments of the diamond pane, are richly ornamented; and above the massive wooden doors, which are panelled, and elaborately carved, are the arms of the Rich family, cut in stone, with the motto "Garde Tafoy." Care has been taken to preserve the ruin, and, on the inner side, a new brick arch has been turned to support it, but in the interior, the turret stairs have broken down, the floors of the different stories are gone, and a colony of pigeons have made roosts of the rafters over which the Countess of Warwick tripped to watch the gay calvacade as it entered the outer court. We should be disposed to say," the writer adds, "from their style and freshness, that the gateway and the other buildings are part of the erections of Lord Rich, and that nothing is left of the old original Priory save, perhaps, some of the out offices of the farm, and a fine stone canopy of a fountain, of the time of Henry VII., which stands in that part of the meadow which was once the inner court, with the wild bramble twining through its beautiful arches."

After the buildings had been inspected, the Rev. L. Cutts read some "Notes of some mediæval fountains, in illustration of the example of Leighs Priory. "It might be doubted," he said, "whether the fountain at Leighs Priory served the purpose of a lavatory for the religious. It appeared to have stood in the centre of a court, and probably not of the cloister court, but of one of the other courts of the monastery: and it differs in character from these lavatories, and could not conveniently have served their purpose, but it resembles the ornamental gothic fountains which used to stand in the court or garden of mediæval houses, or in the street of mediæval towns."

In the course of some conversation which followed, Mr. Chancellor mentioned that, at the desire of those present, he would make a drawing, with the view of its being issued with the journal of the society's transactions.

PLESHEY.

Having closely observed every hallowed spot on the site of the old Priory, the company proceeded to Pleshey, a place of still more historical interest. Now one of the poorest looking villages in Essex, it was, in remote days, a place of considerable wealth and importance. It is said to have been a Roman settlement, and relics, including coffins, and an urn filled with burnt bones, have been found during exca-

uations in the neighbourhood, which tend to support the assertion. It was clearly at one time a corporate town, for at least one old document is in existence in which allusion is made to "the Mayor of Pleshey." The old castle, the origin of which is involved in some obscurity—the first mention of it, of which we are aware, being in the reign of King Stephen—was of course the chief glory of the place. From the foundations which have been traced, it was doubtless a building at once of great magnificence and great solidity. But all this glory has departed. There is not a brick or a stone to be seen above ground; walls, towers, and battlements having alike perished; in fact, the green mounds, surrounded by moats, are all that now remain. The castle yard, about two acres in extent, is inclosed by broad earthen ramparts. Within these ramparts the castle proper reared its lofty towers, while the keep was divided from it by another moat, crossed by a curious brick bridge, which, happily, still remains, and is a feature of peculiar interest to all intelligent visitors. Pleshey castle, we have said, is a place of historic interest. Shakespeare, in his play of Richard II., mentions it more than once. In the reign of that monarch the place had begun to fall into decay, as is evident from what the great dramatist puts into the mouth of the Duchess of Gloucester, in bidding farewell to John of Gaunt, on his departure from London to Coventry, to witness the encounter between Hereford and Mowbray.

It was at Pleshey Castle that Richard betrayed his uncle, the Duke of Gloucester, into the hands of the murderer, and it was here that the Earl of Exeter had to offer up his life for his share in that deed of blood. At Pleshey, too, the Duchess of Gloucester died.

Here, likewise, we find recorded, "was heard the nuptial hymn, and here was spread the gorgeous feast, on the 12th January, 1180, when Wm. de Mandeville solemnised his marriage with the heiress of the Earl of Albemarle, at his castle at Plaizet, and the nobles of the land gathered round, and the retainers flocked in to do him honour. Here, too, died Humphrey de Bohun, in 1298; and imagination calls up the monks chanting the funeral dirge, as the portcullis rose, the drawbridge fell across the moat, and the long funeral procession issued from the castle gates." In Stephen's days Pleshey was the property of Geoffrey de Mandeville, who forfeited it by his adherence to the Empress Maud, but it returned to the family, and continued there and in the line of the de Bohuns by marriage till 1416, when it descended to two heiresses, Eleanor, who married Thomas of Woodstock, sixth son of Edward III., afterwards Duke of Gloucester, and Mary, who became queen of Henry IV., Pleshey also possessed a famous college, founded in 1393, for nine chaplains, by the Duke of Gloucester. The college, which covered six acres of land, was suppressed early in the 16th century. The Duke of Buckingham, who fell at Northampton in 1460, was buried here, with his wife and three sons; so also was Sir Henry Stafford, who married the mother of Henry VII. In 1720 the estates embracing the sites of these historic buildings were sold to Sir Wm. Jolliffe, "who, at his death in 1750, left them to his nephew, Samuel Tufnell, Esq., and with other estates in Pleshey, they now belong to John Jolliffe Tufnell, Esq., of Langleys."

The excursion was a very pleasurable one.

THE NEW FRANCO-GERMAN FRONTIER.—The *German Correspondent* states, that while the new frontier between France and Germany was being drawn, a stone was found, between Gravelotte and Doncourt which bears upon one side the inscription Terre de France, and doubtless formerly served as a landmark. It stands exactly on the line marked by Kiepert as the former frontier of the German Bishopric of Metz, and was to all appearance erected before 1552, when that city became French. It is to be hoped that the stone will now be preserved as an interesting historical memorial.

SOCIETIES' MEETINGS.

[Secretaries of Archaeological and Antiquarian Societies throughout the Kingdom will confer a favour by forwarding to the Editor of this Journal all Notices and Reports of Meetings, and also their Periodical Publications.]

THE NORTH OXFORDSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

THIS Society had an excursion on the 1st instant, terminating at Bampton. At 10 a.m. the excursionists assembled at Ducklington Rectory, where the hospitality of the Rev. W. D. Macray, and his wife, was manifested in a substantial breakfast, rendering the visitors better prepared to inspect the interesting Parish Church; this building is rendered cruciform by having both north and south porches, the former very good, the latter indifferent: on the exterior walls are several buttresses, with recessed panels; the windows are nearly all acutely pointed and narrow; the north aisle, termed the Baily aisle (from the name of a former family of landowners, one of whom sold the advowson in 1684 to Magdalen College, Oxford), is rich in sculpture; not only are there two elaborately carved arches of the kind sometimes termed Founders' tombs, but high on the wall mutilated figures, representing the Annunciation, the Salutation, and the Nativity; and the ball flower of the time of the three first Edwards is everywhere conspicuous; two finial heads in good preservation are believed to represent Edward III. and Queen Philippa. It was stated that Magdalen College paid for the advowson with the proceeds of lead removed from their Chapel at Brackley, the same that has been recently restored to public use, and reopened by Bishop Magee in March last year.

The excursionists, now consisting of the Revs. Philip Hookins, W. D. Macray, J. M. Talmage, J. W. Lockwood, J. B. Gibbs, and D. Royce; Messrs. F. J. Morrell, Lockwood, jun., Turner, and Wing, then proceeded in open carriages to Cokethorpe Park, and examined the neat little Church, or rather Chapel, therein, of which there is little to be noticed architecturally; the churchyard is open to the Park, without fence of any description, and there are no traces of graves or gravestones, bringing to mind Wordsworth's beautiful sonnet, beginning with—

"Where holy ground begins, unhallowed ends,
Is marked by no distinguishable line,
The turf unites, the pathways intertwine."

The pictures in Cokethorpe House were next examined, through the kindness of Mrs. Strickland, the most attractive one being a large painting, by Holbein, of Sir Thos. More, his family, and brother; supposing the faces to be authentic portraits, and of this there is no reason to doubt, the martyred Chancellor's devoted daughter, Margaret Roper, was as beautiful as she was affectionate.

At Standlake the party was received by the venerable Rector, the Rev. Jos. West, who exhibited his Rectory House, with its curious waterwalk by the side of the Windrush, and his ancient registers. The Parsonage is unique, but we would be inclined to say not over comfortable or dry. The tower of the church is an octagon, surmounted by a spire of elaborate workmanship, pleasing to the eye alike at a distance and upon a closer view; the chancel is spacious, its walls bearing many mural monuments of the Westerns and Stricklands; the iron stanchions to the windows are of a pitchfork pattern; the Church is cruciform, having transepts, and is a good specimen, but not in good repair; one of the members present in drawing forward the Communion table removed rather violently two boards from the wall behind it, and disclosed a recess parted into two by a column, which had apparently been an umbrin in that unusual position. The Rector expressed himself pleased with the discovery, and said he should keep the recess open; later in

the day the visitors found a precisely similar opening at Bampton.

The very small Church of Yelford, standing in a very large Churchyard, without gravestones or grave mounds in sight, was next inspected, as was the adjacent moated mansion, now a farm house, but containing many armorial bearings of the Hastings family, whose crest was La Manche. The Rev. E. F. Glanville is now Rector of this parish, which has an acreage of 400, and a population of 12, the emoluments being, it is said, of similarly modest dimensions.

At half-past three Bampton Church was reached, and words are wanting to describe its beautifully carried out restoration; the preservation of ancient brasses in the Church, the herring-bone masonry of its walls, the great weight of mottle in its rearing peal of six bells; the Horde Chapel, with a stone coffin in it; the linen pattern on one of the ancient rows of seats; the Norman chancel arch; the Easter sepulchre; the north transept, with its numerous carved niches; and the gratifying state of the whole fabric to all who love ecclesiastical propriety.

From the Church the party proceeded, under the guidance of the Rev. H. J. Simcox, one of the Curates of Bampton, to the remains of the Castle, of which little more than the gateway, or rather gate house, remains. There is an elaborate groined roof, part of which was fitted up, and used not long since as a place of worship for Roman Catholics, who were ministered to by a clergyman of that denomination from Buckland. Since the outlying portions of the Shrewsbury estate have been sold, the Castle has become the property of Jesus College, Oxford, which society possesses, among other adjacent farm buildings, a large barn that appears to have been an ecclesiastical edifice.

After dinner at the Talbot Inn, the excursionists returned to Witney, delighted with everything they saw and heard during a glorious summer day.

ELY ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

ON Monday, the 31st ult., this society paid a visit to Ely Cathedral, headed by Edmund Sharpe, Esq., M.A., for the purpose of hearing that gentleman deliver a lecture and give a description of the magnificent building.

Mr. Sharpe commenced by giving a short opening address at the west end of the cathedral, observing that their object was to arrive at correct conclusions as to the architecture of the middle ages. It was, he said, not his intention to go into a documentary history of the cathedral, nor to occupy their time in detail classification. He paid a high compliment to the Rev. Mr. Stewart, formerly a minor canon of the cathedral (and who was present) upon the marvellous correctness of his published description of the architectural history of the building. The lecturer and his party then proceeded to the eastern transept, where he commenced an elaborate description of that portion of the building; and afterwards they proceeded to various other parts, until four o'clock, the commencement of Evening Service. At five o'clock Mr. Sharpe renewed his description until six o'clock, when the party repaired to the Lamb Hotel to dinner, where they were joined by the Dean of Ely, Archdeacon Emery, and other clergymen.

SUSSEX ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

THE annual gathering of this society took place at Chichester on the 10th instant. There was a numerous attendance of members and friends of the society from both divisions of the county. The meeting proved an exceedingly interesting one, and the Cathedral Palace, Bosham and Boxgrove churches, the Museum of the Chichester Library Society and Mechanics' Institution, as well as other places of interest to the archaeologist, were open for inspection.

The Rev. Professor Swainson and the Rev. Canon Partridge, conducted the visitors round the Cathedral; Mr.

Parker, of Oxford, explained the architectural features of the Palace; while the Rev. H. Mitchell, F.S.A., and the Rev. W. Bennett acted respectively as guides to the churches of Bosham and Boxgrove, whither select parties proceeded in vehicles. The local sub-committee had made every effort to secure a pleasant meeting. The dinner was provided at the Dolphin Hotel, Chichester, and in the unavoidable absence of the Lord Bishop, who had been announced to preside, the chair was taken by his Worship the Mayor, the company including Mr. Durrant Cooper, F.S.A., the Rev. E. Turner, of Maresfield, the Rev. W. de St. Croix, hon. secretary, and many other gentlemen, with a good sprinkling of ladies.

SOMERSETSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

The day originally fixed for the visit of this society to Crewkerne has been altered from August 22 to August 29 and two following days, in order to avoid clashing with the British Archæological Society's meeting at Weymouth. The programme has been published.

ANTIQUITIES OF WESSEX.

WHEN the grain is all carted away, Wiltshire offers a scene of great attraction to all exploring antiquaries on their autumnal rambles.

From Swindon on the north to Wilton in the south, across the great stretch of Salisbury Plain, the whole route is thickly strewn with objects of interest. Here we find the homes and graves of our rude ancestors—their strongholds, and the boundary marks of many successive races—all more or less clearly defined and fairly preserved. This, for two reasons—1. Because the open plain must always have proved more favourable to man's evolutions, than a trackless forest, 2. Because the encroaching tide of our teeming population, has not here sufficed to sweep away the relics.

The cretaceous formation abounds in Wilts, but Swindon, with its fine oolitic quarries, rich in fossils, lies on the very edge of the Oxford clay, which skirts the whole county with a narrow belt on the west, leaving the chalk downs of Marlborough separated from the chalk of Salisbury Plain by the green sand-stone which crosses Wilts in almost a straight line from Devizes to King's-Clerie in Hants; strongly marked is this line by the fertile vale of Pewsey. Southward the chalk extends to Wilton, where the green sand re-appears, and eastward by south to Winchester.

We learn that Winchester was known as *Venta Belgarum*, i.e., the Gwent, the fine open champaign land belonging to the Belgians, an immigrant race, who would naturally, in time, seek to spread over the whole downs. Now it would seem probable that the Wansdyke may mark their boundary. *Wans* sounds more like *Wends* than *Wodens*. The *Wends* being the name for a certain people who, when settled in Britain, as *Belgæ* to the Romans, may also have been called *Wends* from a different point of view.

The Wansdyke separates, by artificial means the limits of Marlborough Downs from Salisbury Plain, so that, at one time, the races who held these respective areas were in conflict, i.e., the race settled at *Sorbiodunum* or at *Avesbury*, were at one time, tied down from access to *Avesbury* or *Cuvetio*. This point is of importance in contrasting Stonehenge with *Avesbury*, both megalithic structures, but totally different in style and construction.

The earliest dawn of authentic history represents *Sorbiodunum*, more recently *Old Sarum*, but now *Old Castle Rings*, bleak and deserted in winter, but a local tea-garden in summer, as an important *dune* or hill-fortress of the local tribe, looking down on pit-dwellings in the plain, whose fisher-inhabitants would probably serve to man the fortress in times of danger; it was adopted and strengthened for a Roman *castrum*; it developed into a Saxon then a Norman

stronghold, with civil and ecclesiastical interests, always at discord within such confined and arid limits.

Ultimately the ecclesiastical element effected an Exodus, and founded an architectural gem at New Sarum: (*Saris*—*Salis*, R and L being convertible) in the fertile meads below; there was no lack of water, it permeated the streets as at Venice, in canals, kennels, now mostly covered in; water also in the Cathedral foundations, for it licks its way to the surface and damps the walls, so that the newly renovated fresco paintings in the Chapter House peel off by the square yard, as evidenced by some flakes now before the writer, which present he owes to the courtesy of the Canon in residence.

Sarum, old and new, may be soon explored; and glancing at Bemerton—home of sainted George Herbert and of Bowles, a sweetly rural scene, with enough of Paradise in it, if only accompanied by immortality, to satisfy any merely human soul—we may take in Wilton, a genuine Roman settlement, now overlaid by many acres of fertile land; the modern township has wandered away from the parent site, but here we may now admire the lamented Sydney Herbert's Byzantine Chapel. Alas, damp here reveals itself; and, if so favoured, visit Inigo Jones's palace with some beautiful pictures, and pace the Arcadian avenues sacred to memories of

"Sydney's sister, Pembroke's mother."

A vigorous man may readily walk the eight miles or so, from Salisbury to Stonehenge, and looking backwards, see the tapering spire grow less and less along the whole route.

Stonehenge is a mere adjunct of *Amesbury*,* a decayed monastic town, having, as yet, no railway station to replace the lost posting business of the old coaching days. Out on the plain barrows may be counted by hundreds, with a so-called *cursus*, and a genuine Roman encampment. Stonehenge is *post-Roman*; the stones are hewn, and hung or suspended on high—A.S. *hon, heng, we hengen* "to hang;" the whole structure has been carefully designed, and its name should be allowed to speak for itself. Here we find massive uprights, with huge imposts resting on them; there is an encircling mound of wide expanse, and this raised structure in the centre; there was a double circle of stones; each upright has been worked with a round tenon at top to fit into a mortice hole in the impost; the imposts have been dovetailed together, with grooves or joints like a carpenter's matched-lining; this outer circle has had a second row of uprights, with fresh imposts, and there was also a third story in part. Nennius ascribed it to the 5th century, A.D., Geoffrey of Monmouth confirms this; Henry of Huntington writes—"Stones of wonderful magnitude are raised in the manner of doors, so that they seem like doors placed over doors." He means open door-ways. I conceive it to be a Romano-British imitation of the real Roman Circus, such as the Coliseum at Rome, the theatre at Nîmes, and such like; smaller ones we had, as at Richborough, but nothing on the grandest scale; this would do for ceremonial triumphs, then there was the neighbouring circus for chariot races.

Avesbury lies some twenty-five miles off, beyond the vale of *Pewsey*, up the hills, and across the *Wansdyke*.

A. H.

To be continued.

THE Church of S. Clement Danes, Strand, it is said, is marked out for demolition. On Monday, in a consultation between the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. Street, and other authorities, it was decided that its removal was necessary for the approaches to the New Law Courts, at last actually in course of erection.

* C.F. Amesbury Banks, a Roman-British encampment of eight acres, in Epping Forest.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[The Editor will be glad to receive Correspondence on Archaeological matters, and information of discoveries of antiquities, accompanied with drawings of objects, when of sufficient interest, for illustration.]

THE HELLSTONE, DORSET.

To the Editor of "THE ANTIQUARY."

SIR,—Having ere now examined many of the traces of a bygone age in Dorset, I was somewhat astounded to find the following paragraph in the *Standard* of the 23rd inst., referring to the Hellstone cromlech, which was one of the objects visited by the British Archaeological Association, now holding its 28th Congress at Weymouth.

"This relic of the past was an object of great interest, and the thanks of the Association as well as of every archaeologist are due to Mr. Manfield who has, at his own expense, restored this wonderful specimen of our forefather's handiwork."

Now the casual reader of this would fancy that something had been done beneficial to archaeology, instead of the very reverse. The "restoration" of our later architectural relics is often carried too far, although much is oftentimes absolutely necessary to prevent their total ruin, but here at Portisham was a picturesque and venerable pile of stones, traditionally, it is true, said to have been once otherwise arranged, but having through the great length of time since they were overthrown become antiquated in their ruin, and likely to last in that state for ages, if left undisturbed. But in 1869 the "restorer" sets to work, and with what result? Why, "the wonderful specimen of our forefather's handiwork" is transformed into a nineteenth century cromlech, the handiwork of a well-known firm of modern engineers. The Hellstone cromlech having thus been re-modelled or "restored," and its former appearance totally changed, is of course "an object of great interest" to mere sight-seers, but to the right-minded antiquary a pang of regret quivers through his frame, when he beholds a once ruined specimen of ancient workmanship transformed into "a fit to be seen" structure, and robbed of all its direct associations with the past. The Hellstone is now no longer an ancient erection or a lichen-clad ruined monument of the past, but a patched up structure of the present, and interesting only as indicating the site of a once noble and famous cromlech.

It is really surprising how such a paragraph, as that I have quoted from the *Standard*, could have been penned by any one interested in antiquities. Let thanks be given to whom thanks are due, but it really seems strange that the thanks "of the Association as well as of every archaeologist," should be given for the semi-destruction of a once noble object of antiquity.

I leave this subject for abler pens to dilate upon, but with an earnest hope that the Association itself does not "wink" at these so-called cromlech "restorations," of which several instances have occurred lately.

X. Y. Z.

August 24, 1871.

To the Editor of "THE ANTIQUARY."

SIR,—I should feel much obliged if one of your numismatic readers would inform me how I can gain admission to the national collection of coins at the British Museum.

Some time back I went for that purpose, and was told that I could not be admitted without an order, but where to apply for one I am at a loss to know.

This, with any other information respecting the collection, will be thankfully received by

West Mount, Derby.

G. R. H.

To the Editor of "THE ANTIQUARY."

SIR,—Any information on Jean Lucas, buried in Ware Church, co. Herts, will be most acceptable. A stone appeared in the north side of the church, according to Salmon, with this inscription upon it—

"Jean Lucas, gist ici
Dieu de s' alme eit merci."

Was she related to the Lucas family, of Lofts Wendon, co. Essex.

W. WINTERS.

MISCELLANEA.

THE last of the metropolitan turnpike gates (Swiss Cottage, Finchley Road) has just been removed.

DR. BEKE has in the press a work, entitled "The Idol in Horeb," in which he seeks to show that the golden image made by Aaron for the Israelites to worship, at Mount Sinai, was a cone, not a calf. The work also comprises several articles relating to other errors of the septuagint Jewish translators of the Old Testament, consequent on their identifying Mizraim with Egypt, &c.

LLANGOLLEN BRIDGE.—This venerable structure, which has for so many centuries been celebrated as one of the seven wonders of Wales, is now found so inadequate to the increased traffic of this neighbourhood, that for many years there has been a general and increasing desire to have it widened.

VALE CRUCIS ABBEY.—The hand of Time has been long at work upon this noble pile of ancient ruins. The beautiful specimen of architecture in front of the building has for centuries been gradually crumbling away; but workmen are now engaged in repairing it.

MR. JUSTIN SIMPSON is preparing for publication a List of the Lincolnshire Series of Tradesmen's Tokens of the Seventeenth Century. The work will give a descriptive account of more than 220 specimens of these coins issued in this county by corporations and tradesmen, between 1649 and 1672 (in the latter year they were cried down by royal proclamation).

AN old lady is now living at Sawbridgeworth, co. Hants, aged 106, and still enjoys a good state of health.

ACCORDING to the *Guardian*, a stone has been found during the restoration of the parish church of Aldborough, Holderness, stating that, in the reign of Canute, Ulf, the Dane, built the church "for the souls of Hanun and Gundhart." This stone is now rebuilt into the wall.

THE Rothschild family, says the *Constitutional*, is about to celebrate the centenary of the banking-house to which it owes its fortune. The firm was established at Frankfort, in 1771, by Meyer-Anselm. Being left an orphan, he obtained employment in a bank at Hanover, and by his industry and economy succeeded in amassing a little capital, with which he founded his own establishment. In 1801, he was appointed agent for the Elector of Hesse whose fortune he saved at the risk of his own, when the French army entered that state. For that service the Emperor of Austria gave titles of nobility to all the members of the family, with the motto, to which they have always remained faithful, *Concordia, Industria, Integritas*. The founder of the dynasty left ten children, of whom the youngest was the late Baron James, of Paris.

IN the last number of the Paris paper, *L'Artiste*, there is a reproduction of Callot's great work, 'Les Misères de la Guerre,' from the original plates, dated 1633, which were found in the possession of Madame de Graffigny, descendant of the Callot family.